

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Nicolas J. Acosta, DOB: 5/20/79, formerly of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was sentenced late Friday afternoon, February 17, 2006, to 12 years and 7 months in federal prison without parole. Acosta previously pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on and around the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Sawyer County, Wisconsin.

The government's proof established that Nicolas Acosta conspired with his brother, Gregorio Acosta Jr. , and Acosta Jr.'s wife, Spring Lasieur Acosta, to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine from late 1999 through August 2001. In sentencing Acosta, Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb found that this portion of the conspiracy was responsible for distributing more than 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine during that time period. Judge Crabb also found that Acosta was a committed member of the Latin Kings, a violent street gang.

Acosta is the 37th person sentenced to prison as a result of this long-term investigation of drug dealing on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department.

Seven defendants remain to be sentenced in U.S. District Court in Madison. The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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